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Explosion at Miami Airport fuel farm affecting AA flights to Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- Twice daily flights with American Airlines from Miami have been disrupted because of an explosion at the Miami Airport fuel farm which disabled all 15 pumps, resulting in delays and cancellations out of the southeastern hub.

All airlines flying out of Miami are affected. However, Miami is the principal hub for American Airlines and this particularly disrupts its long range flights to various destinations, including Aruba. Flights 1047 and 2551, which arrive at 2:30 and 9:40 P M daily, were cancelled on Saturday. Yesterday the early flight arrived in Aruba and returned, the evening flight was cancelled. An American Airlines



employee stated that no definitive flight information can be provided in advance, as Miami airport personnel seek solutions to the situation. "We are taking it a day at a time," they said.

Two pumps have been put into operation, and attempts to use tankers to fill the planes proved difficult, taking several hours for the larger jets. Some

airlines are trying to remedy the situation by having planes flying into Miami Airport travel with full tanks, so they have sufficient fuel to go on to their next destination or fly back to their return point.

A Thursday flight to Aruba from Miami Airport, the day after the explosion, stopped at Montego Bay, Jamaica to refuel.

"Every attempt to accommodate passengers and resolve the situation is being explored," they report. "We hope customers will be patient and realize this has nothing to do with airline service, we are doing the best we can, considering the circumstances." When possible, passengers are being booked on other airlines flying into Florida or rerouted to connect in other cities.

For information on changes in flights schedules, call the American Airlines reservations desk at 582-2700 or visit their website <http://www.aa.com> for updates.

by Rosalie Klein

Dutch royal couple to boost trade with Vietnam



Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange and Princess Máxima of the Netherlands

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima of the Netherlands will pay an official visit to Vietnam this week, in a bid to boost ties between the two countries.

Today and tomorrow, they will stay in the capital Hanoi,

followed by two days in the city of Ho Chi Minh, formerly known as Saigon.

As the visit will focus particularly on trade, the royal pair is accompanied by Foreign Trade Minister Henk Bleker and Deputy Infrastructure and Environment Minister Joop Atsma.

UN-backed test shows need to improve Caribbean tsunami warning system

THE CARIBBEAN -- The first full-scale test of the tsunami warning system in the Caribbean has highlighted the need to reinforce preparations as well as improve communication, evacuation plans and the role of the private sector, the United Nations said on Saturday.

The simulated tsunami alert, dubbed Caribe Wave 2011, was carried out on 23 March and involved 34 countries. Under the test scenario, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake was signaled off the coast of the Virgin Islands, which generated a tsunami with waves reaching of up to ten metres.

The exercise tested the Tsunami and Other Coastal

Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (Caribe EWS), which was set up in 2005 under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The exercise highlighted a number of gaps in the transmission of information, UNESCO stated in a news release, noting that in several areas, the message was not received by the Global Telecommunications System (GTS).

In other cases, reception of messages via the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN)

failed. At national level only a few mobile telephone operators joined the exercise.

Populations and media throughout the region keenly followed the exercise, which also allowed for an evaluation of evacuation plans and the role of the private sector in the case of a catastrophe, the agency added.

"I am delighted with the level of participation in this exercise and the interest that has been shown by local populations," said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. "Such drills are essential to evaluate the efficiency of warning systems and ensure their efficient operation when catastrophe strikes."

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

US experts unsure about Fukushima situation

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US experts have expressed uncertainty about the seriousness of the situation at Japan's Fukushima nuclear complex, steering clear of speculation whether the core of one of the reactors there had been damaged.

Dave Lochbaum, director of the Nuclear Safety Project at the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent advocacy group that has been a nuclear

industry watchdog for 40 years, said there had been reports that the reactor vessel for Unit 3 at the power plant had been breached.

But he also noted that there was some data put out by the Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency that the reactor vessel was still intact.

"So, it's contradictory data," Lochbaum told reporters on the weekend. "I think that's reflective of the situation over

there. There's quite a bit of damage in quite a few areas. There's not a lot of instrumentation available. There's not a lot of access available for workers to go through the facility and more accurately assess conditions in lieu of the instrumentation that's spotty at best."

Lochbaum added that he thought it was going to take a while to fully identify what happened at Fukushima and why.

Merkel party in German state poll disaster



Angela Merkel

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives lost power in their German heartland after nearly six decades, initial poll results showed yesterday, with the Greens likely to lead their first state government.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) have ruled Baden-Wuerttemberg since 1953, but anger over her nuclear policy in light of the Japan crisis as well as decisions on Libya and the euro drove away voters in the run-up to the poll.

The anti-nuclear Greens claimed about 24 percent of the vote -- about 12 point higher than five years ago -- and were likely to form a coalition with the Social Democrats, who garnered about 23 percent in the rich state.

The online service of newsweekly Der Spiegel called the outcome for the two parties, based on preliminary results released on public television, a "sensation."

They edged out Merkel's party and their junior partners, the Free Democrats (FDP), who look set to claim a dismal 44 percent between them.

Green party Candidate Winfried Kretschmann, who could become the party's first state leader in Germany, called it a "historic victory."

The result in the state bordering France and Switzerland marked a debacle for Merkel, 56, after drubbings in North Rhine-Westphalia in May and Hamburg in February, with three more state polls to come this year.



April 5, 2010 file photo shows U.S. pop star Madonna pumping irrigation water from a borehole during a visit to Gumulira village, about 80 km (50 miles) from the Malawian capital Lilongwe.

Eight workers at Madonna's Malawi charity are suing the U.S. pop star for unfair dismissal and non-payment of their benefits, their lawyer said on March 27, 2011.

The board of the charity, Raising Malawi, was sacked after abandoning plans to build a state of the art girls' school just outside the capital Lilongwe due to mismanagement, the New York Times newspaper reported on the weekend.

Mexico state near US on alert after H1N1 deaths

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AFP) - Authorities in Mexico's Chihuahua state along the US border announced preventive health measures yesterday to stanch a return of an H1N1 epidemic after four people recently died of the virus.

"School checks will be implemented following a renewed outbreak of H1N1 human influenza, as a means of protecting all students from possible infection," said Javier Gonzalez, Chihuahua's deputy secretary of education, culture and sport.

Gonzalez said four people had died in the state since last week, when authorities discovered a fresh outbreak of the virus, and state health officials quickly launched a vaccination campaign and outreach programs to inform the population about prevention measures.

Mexico raised the first H1N1 alert in April 2009, and swine flu -- so named because it was first identified in pigs in Mexico -- has killed some 18,500 people since emerging that spring, according to the World Health Organization.

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Barracudas Synchronized swimmers organize Fun Bingo



PALM BEACH, - On Saturday, April 2nd 2011 a fun bingo event will be organized from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Aruba Marriott Resort (hotel). There are many cash prizes to be won ranging from 75 to 750 Aruban florins, along with some very exciting door prizes.

All proceeds for this bingo will be used to cover the travel expenses of the Barracuda Synchronized Swimming Club of Aruba's top swimming performers, who will represent Aruba abroad. The Barracuda girls that perform in the synchronized swimming selection train very hard, around some 15-20 hours per week to put in the best scores for Aruba. Upcoming performances include synchronized swimming contests in Canada, Puerto Rico and Peru. The sports club does not have sufficient funds and therefore organizes this bingo at The Aruba Marriott Resort as a fundraiser. Every-

body is welcome to join and great prizes can be won!

The Barracudas Synchronized Swimming Club was founded in 1975 and houses multiple top performing teams in synchronized swimming, consisting of girls (only) ranging in age from 6 to 18. With the Barracudas being the only synchronized swimming club in Aruba, they are well known throughout the Caribbean as one of the strongest performers in the region!

If you would like to be part of this winning team and become a synchronized swimmer at the Barracudas Swimming Club you are most welcome to join. You must be in the possession of swimming diploma C, and if you like music, swimming, stretching and exercise, this might be just the sport for you!

For more information, please contact the Barracudas Synchronized Swimming Club, Louella Brezovar, tel 587-3527.

Aruba's hotels and tourism sector to spend \$70 million in 2011 to continue improving the quality of Aruba's tourism product

ORANJESTAD -- The President of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, James Hepple, speaking to the 50 tour operators, travel agents and airline representatives from Latin America at the opening ceremony of the Aruba Tourism Authority's Conferencia Anual de Turismo de Aruba 2011, (CATA) updated the delegates on the many ongoing improvements to Aruba's hotel and tourism sector.

He stressed the ongoing commitment of the private sector to the continuing improvement of Aruba's tourism product and provided the delegates with a list of numerous major investments currently underway in Aruba.

The major projects include:

The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino and Spa will complete a major \$30 million refreshment of every room of the 355 room resort as well as a total renovation of its casino by September of this year.

Since 2008, The La Cabana Beach and Racquet Club has embarked on a \$35 million total renovation of all 449 units and public areas and will spend \$10 million this year to complete the renovation program by refreshing the final 72 units and finishing the renovation of the lobby.

This October the Marriott Surf Club will spend \$6 million on completely refreshing the 144 two bedroom villas of its Compass Tower.

The Hyatt Hotel will spend \$5 million during the course of this year on upgrading a number of different areas of the hotel.

The Divi Village and Golf Resort will spend \$4 million on completing the renovation of its 132 suites and Divi will also spend \$6 million on ren-

KLM launches new flight to China

SCHIPHOL, The Netherlands -- KLM Royal Dutch Airlines recently launches its first flight to the Chinese city of Xiamen, bringing to seven the number of destinations in China it services from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

KLM is the only European airline to fly directly to Xia-



James Hepple

ovating the Alhambra Casino as well as adding a shopping mall with a variety of new stores and restaurants.

The Renaissance complex will spend \$4 million this year on the refreshment of the Marina Hotel, renovations to the restaurant and fitness facilities on Renaissance Island, the addition of 82 state of the art slot machines in its casinos as well as the addition of a covered stage for daily outdoor entertainment at the Renaissance Marketplace.

The Marriott Hotel will spend \$1.5 million in adding a new adult pool.

The Westin Resort & Casino recently completed a \$1.5 million total renovation of its casino and will invest a further \$2 million on improvements to the hotel.

The Bucuti/Tara Beach Hotel will spend \$1 million on completely refreshing its 104 rooms and a further \$1 million on remodeling and improving its main restaurant.

The Manchebo Beach Resort and Spa will complete a \$2 million total renovation of all of its 71 rooms.

The 187 room Mill Resort and Suites will invest \$1.5 million in the first phase of a complete renovation of its rooms and its lobby area.

The Brickell Bay Beach

Club and Spa will invest a further \$400,000 in its continuing improvement program.

And many other hotels have recently completed substantial improvements to their properties, hotels such as the Talk of the Town, the Ocean Club and the Marriott.

Hepple went on to tell delegates that they would see the enormous expansion of the Palm Beach shopping complexes as well as the recently renovated Renaissance Mall downtown, which now stays open until 8 in the evening, all designed to make Aruba that much more attractive to the dedicated shopper.

As well the Palm Beach area has seen the opening of many new restaurants and bars over the last 12 months making Aruba's nightlife that much more exciting.

Hepple concluded his remarks by telling the delegates that Aruba's ground tour operators and DMCs continued to invest in introducing new vehicles and upgrading the quality of their fleets with De Palm Tours for example investing \$1 million this year in brand new Land Rover off road vehicles.

Finally he said that the Reina Beatrix airport will spend a further \$20 million this year on an ongoing major upgrade to Aruba's award winning international airport.

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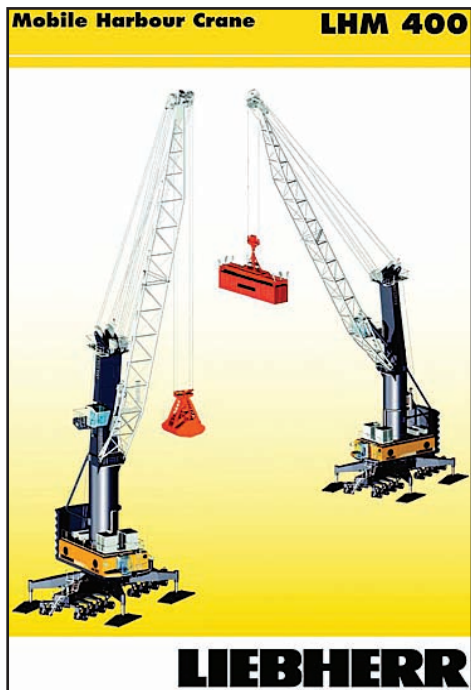
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APA inaugurates new mobile crane



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Ports Authority, APA, in its quest to improve service to the Aruban community, recently inaugurated its new mobile crane – a LHM 400 model made by Liebherr Werk Nenzing of Austria. The crane is especially made to operate in our Caribbean weather and conditions.

APA invested approximately 3 million Euros in equipment upgrades as for any eventuality, possibly interrupting loading and unloading of cargo. The decision to buy a mobile crane was a rather long process; APA together with ASTEC manage-

ment traveled abroad to consider various options and offers. The decision was made to buy a crane from Liebherr, which is renowned for their quality and considered one of the most reliable manufacturers in the world.

The existing crane at the port is a 28-year-old Gantry. APA made many changes to its structure so as to comply with the requirements to operate; even rails were especially fitted for the conditions of our container wharf. After all these improvements, the crane was re-certified to operate for one year. The new mobile crane will be transferred to the new container wharf when it is ready, and both will be deployed. This will allow service and repair of crane equipment, if necessary, without interruption of port operations.

APA Director Alfonso Boekhoudt wishes to extend gratitude towards all who co-operated in this new investment. Besides improving operation at our harbor, it also brings confidence in our economy and peace of mind to clients.

20 year retrospect of local artist Waldy Simson opens at Cas di Cultura



Tribute to Michael Jackson

Saturday evening, March 26, Aruba's art community gathered at the Cas di Cultura to examine the evolution of Waldy Simson, celebrating 20 years as an acknowledged artist. The exposition features his earliest works, consisting of ceramics and plaster relief from attending university in Holland, to his present fascination of working with glass.

The collection of paintings, sculptures, silhouette paper art and his use of glass is interest in tracing the explorations of a creative soul; particularly in finding a medium that best allows him to express his vision.

A number of his glass works show a maturity and development of technique regarding composition, structure and the use of color. A time spent in Suriname at the turn of the century reveals the artist very much influenced by the nature and social milieu around him.

The retrospect was punctuated by the unveiling of his newest and most ambitious glass piece titled "Love," which incorporated male and female human hair collected by his friend and barber, Ronald. It is a method he employed previously in a painting, and he feels captures some essence of his subjects.

"Waldy Simson- 20 Aña den Arte," will be on display today and tomorrow in the morning and late afternoon until 7:00 P.M. with the artists present to discuss his work; entrance is free of charge.

by Rosalie Klein



From his Suriname period



Waldy at right with his hair gatherer, Ronald, with his new work, LOVE



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FOTH helps Aruba's special athletes to Go, Go for the Gold in Greece!



FOTH President Art Stark hands over donation to Arturo Werleman

Friends of the Handicapped, (FOTH,) is a group of community minded island visitors who spend their winters on Aruba. Over 20 years ago, they started a foundation to channel funds from fundraising events they organize and

conduct during their vacations to various organizations on Aruba working with the physically and mentally challenged.

This year, they had already made their annual distribution when they learned

of the needs of Aruba's special athletes to raise an exceptional amount necessary for their delegation to participate in the International Special Olympics Summer Games taking place in Athens, Greece in June.

The remaining FOTH members who had not yet returned home from their annual sojourn in Aruba conferred and decided between them they should make a special last donation for this worthy cause before departing the island.

Arturo Werleman, president of the Aruba Special Olympics Committee was joined by Enrita Arias and committee treasurer Dennis Conrado plus a contingent of special athletes to accept the generous donation from FOTH President Art Stark, accompanied by board members Sal and Maryann La Carruba along with Pat and Marsha Finck.

"We are more than happy to make this additional special effort," commented Art Stark, "we think it embod-

ies everything FOTH stands for, and we know it is important to Aruba's special athletes."

FOTH members were delighted to meet four of Aruba's medal winning competitors from previous world games, Eldrin Kock, Vanessa Bernabela, Indra Giel and Jeffrey Croes, who hope to represent their island nation again as they Go, Go for the Gold in Greece!

by Rosalie Klein



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Five countries sign for 'European Amazon' reserve



Croatian children stand on the shore of the Danube river near the village of Batina, some 300 kms east of the capital Zagreb.

GODOLLO, Hungary (AFP) — Five central European countries signed an accord to launch a cross-border nature reserve in an area known as Europe's Amazon at a meeting of environmental ministers that ended Saturday.

The declaration signed by Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia paves the way for the creation of the world's first five-country protected area, international environmental group WWF said, hailing the accord.

It will be "a first in the region and the first created by five countries," added Hungary's Rural Development Minister Sandor Fazekas at the meeting close to the capital Budapest where the area

to be covered by the reserve was described as "Europe's Amazon" because of its rich biodiversity.

The reserve will create Europe's largest riverine protected area, covering 700 kilometers (435 miles) along the Danube, Dra (Drava), and Mur (Mura) rivers, WWF said in a statement.

It includes rare floodplain forests and river islands and is home to Europe's highest density of breeding pairs of white-tailed eagle and endangered species such as the little tern, black stork and otters, it said.

The five countries are to establish a coordination team to work on obtaining natural reserve status for the area.

Report: Amazon launching music storage service

Amazon is planning to launch its own digital content storage service, and it could be available as early as this week.

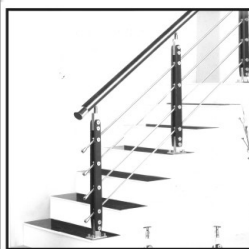
According to a report, Amazon has been talking to major record labels and film studios about creating a service that would allow you to store your music, movies, and books on Amazon's servers like a "digital locker."

Amazon is reportedly still

trying to obtain all the necessary licenses, but the plans could be announced before the negotiations are complete, it was reported.

Both Google and Apple are said to be working on similar services. Google has reportedly launched Google Music internally, which means it could be prepping the platform for a public release.

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Water-powered spaceship could make Mars trip on the cheap

Spaceships powered primarily by water could open up the solar system to exploration, making flights to Mars and other far-flung locales far cheaper, a recent study has found.

A journey to Mars and back in a water-fueled vehicle could cost as little as one space shuttle launch costs today, researchers said. And the idea is to keep these "space coaches" in orbit between trips, so their relative value would grow over time, as the vehicles reduce the need for expensive one-off missions that launch from Earth.



Space shuttle Discovery lands at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.,

The water-powered space coach is just a concept at the moment, but it could become a reality soon enough, researchers said.

"It's really a systems inte-

gration challenge," said study lead author Brian McConnell, a software engineer and technology entrepreneur. "The fundamental technology is already there."

US trade judge rules for Apple in Nokia dispute

A member of the media inspects an iPod Touch at an Apple Special Event in San Francisco, California.

A judge with the US International Trade Commission ruled in Apple's favor on Friday in a patent dispute with Finland's Nokia over mobile phones, portable music players and computers.

Judge James Gidea denied Nokia's claim that Apple had violated five patents held by the Finnish company.

The judge did not provide an explanation for his ruling and the full six-member commission now has 60 days to review his determination.

The ITC has the authority



to bar imports into the United States of products found to be infringing on patents and Nokia was seeking to have Apple products barred.

The two mobile phone titans have been embroiled in a

fierce legal battle over patents with Nokia lodging at least two other lawsuits against Apple and the California gadget-maker filing counter-suits against the Finnish company.

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Health & Living

Genome study brings blood cancer into sharp focus

CHICAGO, U.S.A. – Scientists have mapped out the full genetic code of 38 people with multiple myeloma, uncovering never-before suspected genes that play a role in the blood cancer and showing that a promising new drug might help.

Studying the genetic blueprint of so many people with this cancer allows researchers to have a much more comprehensive picture of what drives the cancer, and it gives drug companies much better clues

about how to shut down the disease.

"If we compare the tumor genome to the normal genome, that gives us great clues about what makes a normal cell into a cancer cell," said Todd Golub of the Broad Institute and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who helped lead the study published this week in the journal *Nature*.

Golub said the findings revealed many new avenues for future treatments for the cancer, including several genes



Bio Technician demonstrates the loading of the high tech 454 Life Science sequencing machine

that have never before been implicated in any cancer.

"We have a number of examples of genes that were not thought to play a role, but they must be important," Golub said in a telephone interview.

"It sends the field in a new direction that they couldn't have anticipated before."

Most immediately, the results suggest that about 4 percent of patients with multiple myeloma have mutations in the BRAF gene -- the same type of mutations found in some people with the skin cancer melanoma.

So far, melanoma patients with this mutation have shown a strong response to an experimental drug being developed by Roche and Daiichi Sankyo's newly acquired Plexxikon, and the hope is the drug or others like it might also help a small subset of multiple myeloma patients.

"An important next phase will be to explore that hypothesis in a clinical trial," Golub said.

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation hailed the study as "a major step forward" in efforts take a personalized medicine approach in multiple myeloma, a cancer that starts in bone marrow cells and has a five-year survival rate of less than 40 percent.

Golub said the study showcases the power of new gene-sequencing technology that allows researchers to look at

quencing technology," said Golub, who is an investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

The latest machines from companies like Illumina Inc and Life Technologies Corp can map out a patient's whole DNA code in just a few weeks for as little as \$5,000, a far cry from 13 years and \$3 billion it took to get the first human genome a decade ago.

Golub said the study signals a new approach that is coming in cancer research.

"It is a very positive development that will enable the field to see things that were previously not imaginable," he said.

"Five years from now, we will have the genetic landscape of all common human cancers mapped out."

Radiation-exposed Japan workers to be discharged



Workers, who stepped into radiation-contaminated water during operation's at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, are shielded with tarps

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) - Three workers who stepped in radioactive water inside a crippled Japanese nuclear plant will be discharged from medical care with no sign of serious injuries, officials said Sunday.

The trio, in their 20s and 30s, will leave a National Institute of Radiological Sciences facility in Chiba east of Tokyo on Monday and be monitored by local clinics, an official at the institute told AFP.

The men stepped in a puddle of radioactive water while working to restore power at the reactor three unit of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, which was badly damaged by a massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

Two of them were not wearing protective rubber boots and received an esti-

mated dose of 2,000 to 6,000 millisieverts of radiation below the ankles.

Normally about half of people who receive a 5,000 millisieverts dose across the entire body would be expected to die within a month.

But in this case exposure was localized and officials said the two men did not develop radiation burns on their feet and required no special treatment.

"Tests have shown evidence of internal radiation. But the readings are not high enough to affect human health," the official said, adding that their conditions were not expected to deteriorate.

The third man wore protective shoes and avoided direct contact with the radioactive water.

the whole genetic makeup of a cancer, something that was not possible even five years ago.

"This has been made possible not by our brilliance but by advances in new gene se-

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Seth and Christy tied the knot on beautiful Aruba



Seth and Christy met in high school over 11 years ago. Although their paths crossed several times, both being shy, it was not apparent that they

for 7 months. After they both made several trips to see each other, Seth asked Christy to move to northern Virginia, where they lived happily to-

were meant for one another until 8 years later. Seth's cousin was hanging out with him near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; she invited Christy to come by, not realizing what was soon to happen. Seth gathered the courage to strike up a conversation with Christy; and they never stopped talking ever since. He met her best friend (Natalie) within a week's time; and secretly Christy told Natalie "he's the one." She could not have agreed more. The only problem was, Seth was a teacher near Washington DC and Christy lived near Pittsburgh, over 250 miles apart. They continued dating

gether for a year and a half.

On a trip to visit Natalie, in Vancouver, B.C. Seth decided it was perfect timing to pop the question. When they stopped to take a break at the trail called "Fountain of Love" Seth got down on one knee, shaking like a leaf on a tree, and asked Christy to marry him. Christy accepted and a few months later the couple decided to tie the knot in beautiful Aruba.

After much research to find a location for her big day in Aruba, Christy finally found Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba, who organized the wedding, and Anne Maduro of Passions on the Beach at Amsterdam Manor organized the dinner. At first, trusting unseen people was frightening, but soon Seth and Christy found that their professionalism eased their minds.

When they arrived in Aruba, Lissy and Anne met with the couple and sifted through all of the details. First, they went to the Civil House where Lissy met them to officiate their marriage. The registrar, Mr. Betto Christiaans performed a beautiful ceremony. He explained the importance of marriage, faith-

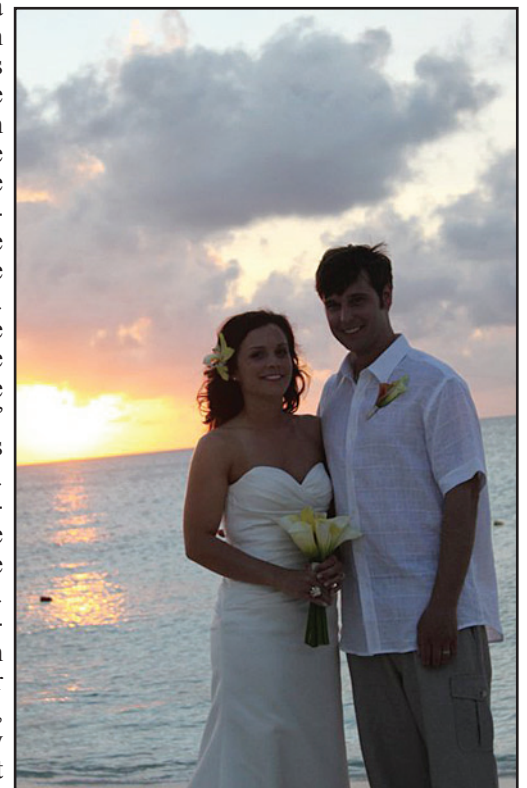
fulness, patience, and always making each other happy.

Later that day, they had their marriage blessed on Eagle Beach by the famous "Fofoti Trees," just in walking distance from La Cabana where Seth and Christy were staying. The ceremony was beautiful, complete with a steel pan musician, an arch, gorgeous flowers, white sand, and the ocean as a backdrop. Even the timing was perfect with the sunset. From there, the couple walked down the shoreline to Passions on the Beach where Anne took over. Seating were arranged in the sand around the bride and grooms' table a few steps from the water. The cake was displayed beside them with a nice fruit arrangement. After a champagne toast from the maid of honor and best man, Seth and Christy had their first

dance as man and wife to a song performed by the steel pan musician.

Shortly after, the cake was cut and family and friends ate a delicious dinner, had drinks and relaxed. The whole production couldn't have gone better!

"To all involved, we thank you so much!!!" said the happy couple.





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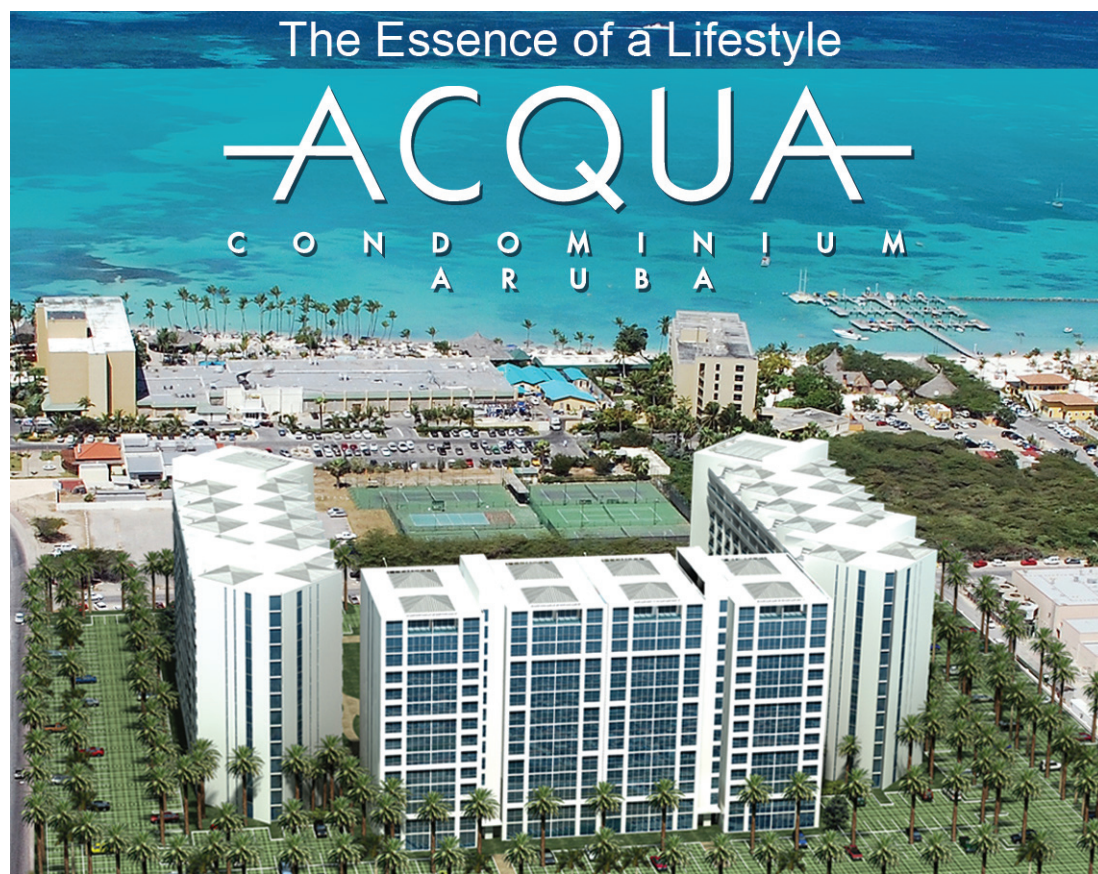
Airside Safety Week closes with recognition for conscientious employees



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Five days of intensive training at the Reina Beatrix International Airport for airside employees ended on Friday, March 25 in the V.I.P. room with a congenial get together recognizing enthusiasm for the goals of the event and steadfast attendance at all the activities.

Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz with Airside Safety Manager Eric Martijn and Airside Safety Business Manager Jurgen Benschop expressed their confidence in their satisfaction with their team's dedication to mastering airside accident prevention and mass trauma control; the two key subject covered by a diversity of lectures and practical exercises over the week.

Edgar Croes received recognition for best attendance of the top ten and "Best Question" earned him a weekend in Suriname courtesy of Suriname Airlines. Other trip winners for special participation were Harold Soto and Rosalba Concalves, they received a dinner for two at Fishes and More donated by General Air Services, and a bag of beauty products

from the Dufry shop.

FOD Walk winners Esther d'Aguiar and Glenbert Williams received a trip for two and a ticket for one to Curaçao, respectively, from Avoir and Inselair. Stamp contest winners Margarita Boekhoudt was awarded a round trip ticket to New York and Rafael Polanco will go to Miami thanks to American Airlines, DAE sponsored a day in either Curacao or Bonaire, which was claimed by Melicent Franken, Sherman Jose will visit Panama with Copa Airlines and Vivienne Jansen won travel to Caracas or Maracaibo with Venezolano Airlines. Overall winner Diana Richards-Beckford received a trip to Colombia on Avianca.

Airport management reiterated their pride in the attitude of airport staff in recognizing the importance of airside safety, not only as a requirement for Aruba to maintain international travel connections, but as a passion by all employees for the quality of their work and Aruba's excellent safety record.

by Rosalie Klein

COMICS



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PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. "Gomer Pyle, _____"
5. Eden lady
8. Drs.
11. Au _____ (nanny)
12. Maggie Simpson's sis
14. "Yes," to Ahab
15. "Auld Lang _____"
16. Withheld
17. Mike and _____ (candy)
18. One of Shrek's pals

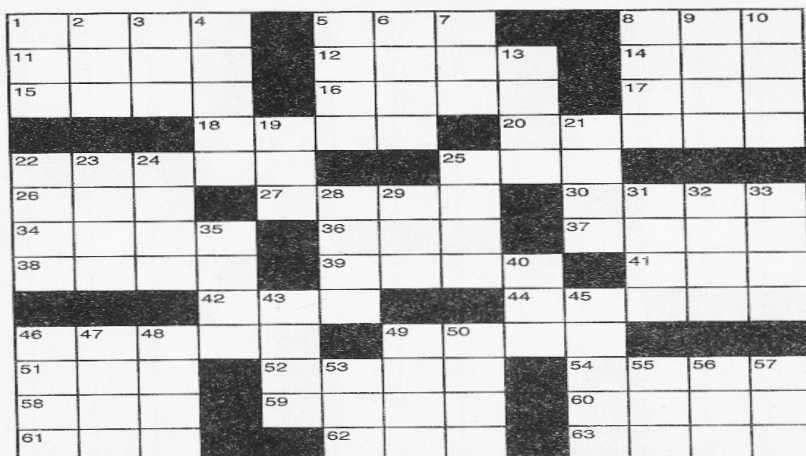
20. Greased
22. Food fishes
25. Records (abbr.)
26. Pierre's friend
27. Director Preminger
30. "_____ keep" (procrastinator's motto)
34. Inner hand
36. Sept. preceder
37. Timber source
38. _____ Domini
39. Coral ridge
41. Turkish title
42. Ace
44. Small devil
46. Seoul's land
49. Track star Lewis
51. Soldier's address

- (abbr.)
52. Teen's home away from home?
54. Iraq's neighbor
58. Actor Beatty
59. London baby buggy
60. Nothing
61. Pennsylvania has three
62. Former airline
63. Tel _____

DOWN

1. Elevator directions
2. State
3. Hr. portion
4. Dress fabric
5. BPOE members
6. Competes
7. Seer's gift

- (abbr.)
8. Send
9. Dick Van _____
10. Garden need
13. On
19. GI's hangout
21. "_____ just me or..." (2 wds.)
22. Mama's mate
23. "_____ Ordinary Man" (2 wds.)
24. Potter's need
25. Theater section
28. Source of poi
29. It follows Mon.
31. British streetcar
32. Interlocking toy block
33. Opposite of paunchy
35. Brood
40. HST's preceder
43. Inclined runway
45. Miss Doolittle
46. Role for Welles
47. Milk carton instruction
48. Metal bars
49. Pincer
50. _____ mater
53. Painter's creation
55. Clergy mem.
56. Tycoon Onassis
57. Veterans Day mo.



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March 26 - April 02

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	8	1	5	2	9	6	3	7
2	9	5	9	6	8	1	2	7
2	6	9	9	1	7	5	2	8
9	2	6	8	7	1	9	5	2
5	1	8	2	2	9	7	9	6
9	2	7	6	9	5	8	1	2
8	7	2	1	5	2	6	9	9
1	9	9	2	8	6	2	7	5
6	5	2	7	9	9	2	8	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

China's Sinopec profit up 14% on oil price rise



BEIJING, China (AFP) — China's Sinopec said its 2010 net profit rose nearly 14 percent on higher oil prices and strong domestic demand for refined oil and chemical products.

Asia's largest refiner reported a net profit of 71.8 billion yuan (\$11 billion), up from 63.15 billion yuan in 2009, the company said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Revenue reached 1.91 trillion yuan, up 42 percent from the 1.35 trillion yuan recorded in 2009, according to international accounting standards.

Beijing-based Sinopec attributed its "good financial results" to China's rapid growth, robust demand and "the increase in the price of crude oil, oil products and petrochemical products."

The net profit result was slightly lower than analysts had expected, Dow Jones Newswires reported.

Sinopec, also known as China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation, pointed to higher oil prices in 2011 as the global economic recovery continues, driving up demand for crude.

"With the recovery of the world economy, demand in international oil market will ... increase in 2011," Sinopec said.

"The average crude oil prices in 2011 are expected to be higher than that of 2010 due to the influences of geopolitical and other factors."

Sinopec said it would continue to "expand markets" in China and overseas this year, and would "intensify exploration efforts" in the country's western regions.

The company said in December it would buy the Argentine arm of US Occidental Petroleum Corporation for \$2.45 billion, as China's quest for energy increasingly takes it to South America.

Wi-Fi cars hitting the information superhighway



Photo courtesy of Ford Motor Company in 2009 shows how SYNC will broadcast a Wi-Fi signal using internet connectivity

WASHINGTON (AFP) — More cars are hitting the information superhighway thanks to new automotive Wi-Fi technology that allows vehicles to become rolling "hot spots."

Analysts say consumers are warming to the notion of more connectivity in their cars, with "apps" for information and entertainment just as they have with their smartphones or tablet computers.

"Initially, putting Internet access in the car sounds like a distraction and frivolous but as time passes it will become a

part of our lives and we will feel uncomfortable not having access," said Jeff Kagan, an independent telecoms analyst.

Market research firm iSuppli said it expects a surge in worldwide shipments of car Wi-Fi systems to 7.2 million units by 2017, from just 174,000 in 2010.

Wi-Fi has been around for several years as an aftermarket accessory but many major manufacturers now offer some form of Wi-Fi or are developing it.

Ford has been offering Wi-

Fi in selected models since 2010 and some form of Internet access is also offered by many other major automakers including General Motors, BMW, Audi, Saab and Chrysler.

In mid-March, Finnish telecom giant Nokia announced the launch of a Car Connectivity Consortium of 11 companies with common technical standards, including vehicle manufacturers Daimler, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Toyota, and Volkswagen.

Autonet Mobile, a California-based firm that touts itself as the "first Internet-based telematics and applications service platform" for the auto market, has over 10,000 US customers using its CarFi service at \$29 a month, said chief executive Sterling Pratz.

The group recently signed agreements with General Motors and Subaru.

Pratz told AFP that consumers are looking for better entertainment options for passengers in their vehicles and use Wi-Fi for videos, gaming and social networking.

BP risks losing Russia 'deal of century'

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) — One of the biggest energy deals in Russia's post-Soviet history is on the verge of collapse amid questions about both the British giant BP's credibility and the risk of doing business in the country.

The British firm's \$16 billion alliance to jointly explore the Arctic with state-held Rosneft was hailed on its announcement January 15 as the "deal of the century" that would help resurrect Russia's dour business image abroad.

It marked a triumphant return for BP after the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and a chance for Russia to roll back its reputation for coming up with bizarre pretexts for stripping energy majors of their prized possessions.

But few people watching Prime Minister Vladimir Putin assure BP chief Robert Dudley of the government's co-operation could have predicted that,



Oil giant BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley (L) shakes hand with state-run Russian firm Rosneft's President Eduard Khudainatov (R)

10 weeks later, an arbitration tribunal would block the tie-up.

The Stockholm panel decided to side with a small but powerful player in the Russian energy saga: a group of billionaires collectively known as AAR, who make up the Russian half of the British firm's TNK-BP venture.

The well-connected Russian businessmen had right of first refusal on the British

firm's local deals. They feared that the BP-Rosneft agreement would eventually make their own company redundant.

Now sceptical voices in the media are wondering if BP simply walked into a trap laid for it by a Russian government keen to get sweeter terms on Arctic work -- which Rosneft can only get from a technically-savvy Western partner.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

USA	HUB	NBA
STU	BANE	DOUG
SID	ANTIPASTO	
RING	ONIT	
BEE	GAELIC	
CYCLES	DAMS	
TOE	SLING	CPA
ISAW	BARGES	
ETHICS	TEE	
PIED	ELKS	
SPREADOUT	ITE	
LEES	ANNS	TAR
YAP	NEE	ENG

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Aruba's religious sites Featured: the Lourdes Grotto



Aruba is known for its beautiful white beaches, pristine turquoise waters, a lot of sunshine and a beautiful arid landscape. Tourist flow to the island to relax in a tranquil ambiance and enjoy the many activities constantly happening here. But what if you want to spend a quiet moment? Aruba's spiritual sites offer you the best to achieve the perfect balance of body and soul.

of the island, away from most of the action, the Lourdes Grotto is peaceful and set away from much of the hectic activity. A grotto is either a natural or artificial cave used by humans, and the grotto on Aruba became a religious site when the Catholic church placed a large statue of the Virgin Mary into a rocky hillside at Seroe Preto in 1958.

The Lourdes Grotto is named after the region in



Aruba was colonized by both the Spanish and the Dutch, thus has a strong prevalent Catholic population, even today. While there are many religions represented on the island, it is the Aruba churches and sites that draw those of all faiths.

The Lourdes Grotto is possibly the most well-known religious site on Aruba. Located near San Nicolas in the southern part

southern France where the Virgin Mary appeared to a peasant girl. The statue was placed on Aruba to mark the 150th anniversary of this appearance. Another cave is located across the street and, as an extra treat for visitors, parakeets live all around this area. Every year on February 11, a procession travels from the St. Theresita Church located in San Nicolas to the Lourdes Grotto Aruba for mass.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Reese Witherspoon weds for second time



LOS ANGELES, (AFP) - US Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon on Saturday formally married her entertainment agent Jim Toth, People

magazine reported on its website.

The Hollywood celebrities present at the ceremony included Renee Zellweger, Salma Hayek, Sean Penn, Scarlett Johansson, Tobey Maguire and Robert Downey Jr, the magazine said.

The actress, who won her Oscar in 2006 for her role in "Walk the Line", became engaged to Toth in December.

The wedding ceremony took place at Witherspoon's ranch estate in Ojai, California, the report said.

Witherspoon was previously married to actor Ryan Phillippe and has two children with him. The couple divorced in 2008

Indonesia airport foils smugglers with 40 pythons



JAKARTA, Indonesia (AFP) - Indonesian airport officials said they had foiled an attempt by two Kuwaitis to smuggle 40 pythons in their luggage.

Suspects Yaqub Ebrahim and Ali Hasan were caught at Jakarta's international airport as they tried to carry the sedated serpents onto an Emirates Airlines flight to Dubai.

"From many foiled cases, people often use the flights to Dubai to smuggle illegal animals," Salahudin Rafi, operational and technical director at airport operator Angkasa Pura

II, said in an emailed statement to AFP.

He said the suspects usually sedated the animals so officers could not detect them.

"For the sake of flight safety and security, no animals are allowed to be brought onto aircraft without permission and special handling. Especially pythons, which are considered as wild animals," Rafi said.

The two suspects were questioned by airport authorities and the pythons were taken to the animal quarantine centre at the airport.



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CHILE, Santiago : Irish band U2 lead singer Bono and guitarist Dave Evans, aka "The Edge", perform on stage at the Nacional stadium, in Santiago, Chile. The concert is part of the band's 360 Degrees tour.

AFP PHOTO

'French spiderman' takes on world's tallest tower

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - After scaling the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Sydney Opera House, the "French Spiderman" now has his sights set on the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa in the cosmopolitan Gulf emirate of Dubai.

Alain Robert, 48, is due this week to climb the exterior of the skyscraper which stands 828-metres (2,717-feet) tall, as part of an "Education Without Borders" conference for which it is being used as a venue, organisers said.

The climber, whose nickname comes from wearing the outfit of the fictional superhero while scaling the tallest of the tall around the globe, usually works without a safety harness, relying on bare hands and sturdy footing.

In Dubai, however, he will resort to a rope and harness, organisers said.

"The problem in Dubai is the hot weather (of) up to 40 degrees (Celsius, 104 Fahrenheit)," he said back in January 2010 when he announced his ambition to step up to the challenge.

"My biggest fear is to waste my time on earth. For me, climbing is as important



French climber Alain Robert poses in Paris on March 17. After scaling the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Sydney Opera House, the "French Spiderman" now has his sights set on the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa in the cosmopolitan Gulf emirate of Dubai

as eating and breathing. Climbing skyscrapers is my lifetime love and passion," he said.

Robert has climbed more than 100 of the world's tallest buildings, including the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Sears Tower in the US city of Chicago and the 88-storey Jin Mao Building in Shanghai, China.

A Malaysian court fined Robert after he scrambled up the Petronas Twin Towers, which also has 88 floors, in September 2009 with his bare hands in less than two hours.



Cricket:

Sri Lanka beat England, reach cricket World Cup semis

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – Sri Lanka ended England's gruelling five-month global odyssey with a comprehensive 10-wicket triumph on Saturday to set up a World Cup semi-final showdown against New Zealand.

Openers Tillakaratne Dilshan, with 108 not out, and Upul Tharanga, who hit an unbeaten 102, enjoyed their second 200-plus partnership of the tournament, wrapping up victory in Colombo with more than 10 overs to spare.

The win also allowed Muttiah Muralitharan, the most successful bowler in history, to extend his 19-year career by at least three more days with Sri Lanka, the 1996 champions, facing the Kiwis in Colombo on Tuesday.

England, who have been

pecially fielding first in the heat and humidity and they kept up the pressure."

England captain Andrew Strauss, whose side had endured a rollercoaster tournament, admitted they had fallen short.

"They were able to bowl a lot of dot balls at us to build pressure and we weren't able to take advantage of the platform that we had," said Strauss.

"But we have to be honest, we haven't been good enough during the tournament. This was a step too far."

Meanwhile, crack Indian commandos helped ramp up security in Mohali for Wednesday's highly-charged semi-final between India and Pakistan, the first clash of the two teams on Indian soil since

of the ICC and the Board of Control for Cricket in India. We are very happy and we are enjoying ourselves very much."

South Africa captain Graeme Smith has predicted that his team will quickly overcome their latest World Cup fright night, a 49-run loss to New Zealand in Dhaka in Friday's quarter-final.

The Black Caps, restricted to 221-8 after taking first strike, bundled out South Africa for 172 after they were sailing merrily at 108-2 by the 24th over.

South Africa have now lost in three semi-finals, two quarter-finals and once in the first round.

But Smith, who will stand down as one-day skipper, was confident the team will re-



The Happy Sri-Lanka Team

on the road virtually non-stop since embarking on their successful Ashes tour in October, made a dogged 229 for six in their 50 overs.

Jonathan Trott (86) and Eoin Morgan (50), who was dropped three times, provided much-needed backbone on a slow, flat R. Premadasa stadium pitch.

Trott fell in the 49th over, caught off Muralitharan who finished with 2-54, after a 115-ball innings which featured just two boundaries.

"We lost the toss but we started well with the ball," said Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara.

"The guys fought hard, es-

the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Around 2,000 police will patrol the 30,000-capacity Punjab Cricket Association stadium with a further 1,000 having already descended on the luxury Hotel Taj in nearby Chandigarh where both teams are staying.

Pakistan star Mohammad Hafeez insisted he had no qualms about the security situation.

"We have no fear or a feeling of any shortcomings when it comes to security," he said on Saturday.

"That's not our job; our job is to play cricket. To provide security is the responsibility


cover.

"This is an exciting period for South African cricket," he said. "We have the players and the talent. South Africa deserves to win the World Cup."

New Zealand's joy was tempered on Saturday when skipper Daniel Vettori and Kyle Mills, as well as South Africa's Faf du Plessis, were all fined for an ugly on-field bust-up in the game.

Mills, who was only on the pitch to bring drinks to his teammates, was then forced out of the tournament just hours later because of injury.

He has been replaced by Andy McKay.



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India, Pakistan mind games begin in Asia super show



Pakistan cricketer Umar Akmal spars during a training session at The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Stadium in Mohali.

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – India and Pakistan kicked-off the mind games ahead of their World Cup semi-final blockbuster yesterday while New Zealand attempted to halt a three-pronged Asian assault on the title.

Pakistan, the 1992 champions, insist all the pressure will be on India in Mohali on Wednesday where the hosts' status as tournament favourites will come under scrutiny from a 30,000 crowd made up almost entirely of home support.

"If India were going to win the World Cup, this is their best chance," said Imran Khan, who captained the 1992 Pakistan title-winning team.

"I am not trying to play mind games, but the fact that they are favourites and are playing at home will mean they are under more pressure."

"My advice to the Indian team is to take sleeping pills, otherwise they won't be able to sleep," added Imran in his Hindustan Times column.

Pakistan are keen to ramp up the psychological battle, fully aware of the significance of the first meeting of the two rivals on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

They also know that the number of Pakistan fans inside the PCA stadium will be limited to a trickle of VIPs, including Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, and cricket officials.

Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam, a former Test skipper and coach, has appealed for calm between the two sets of fans ahead of the game.

Sri Lanka will hope to make it an all-subcontinent final when they tackle New Zealand in the first semi-final in Colombo on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka, the 1996 champions, made the last four with a 10-wicket rout of England while the Black Caps defied all expectations by defeating South Africa.

New Zealand will be playing in a sixth semi-final.

"It is important to be confident but we should be realistic. New Zealand will be hungry for a place in the final and so are we," said Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara.

England captain Andrew Strauss believes his team's five months on the road eventually undermined their World Cup hopes.

England's rollercoaster tournament ended at the hands of Sri Lanka on Saturday with Strauss insisting it was unrealistic to expect success when players are not given a rest.

After their Ashes victory, England played a seven-match one-day international series in Australia.

That was followed by a brief break at home before the World Cup campaign started in the first week of February.

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Top tennis seeds Nadal, Wozniacki advance



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves against Kei Nishikori of Japan during the Sony Ericsson Open at Crandon Park Tennis Center in Key Biscayne, Florida.

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Top seeds Rafael Nadal and Caroline Wozniacki lived up to expectations as both advanced with ease at the \$9 million

Miami WTA and ATP Masters tournament.

Nadal, on the quest for his first trophy since October in Tokyo, overpowered Japan's

Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-4 while Wozniacki beat Daniela Hantuchova 6-1, 7-6 (9/7).

World number one Nadal has yet to win a Miami title, finishing runner-up in 2005 to Roger Federer and three years later to Nikolay Davydenko. His win over Nishikori followed one at Wimbledon last year.

"It was one of those first rounds you don't want to see," said the Spaniard. "I'm very happy about how I played today -- I was at a high level tonight."

World number three Federer notched another match win and another career milestone through a straight-sets win over Radek Stepanek.

The third-seeded Swiss defeated the Czech 6-3, 6-3 to reach the third round.

Seventh seed Tomas Berdych fought past Spain's Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo 6-1, 6-7 (4/7), 6-0.

But there was no joy for Andy Roddick, who became the second Miami title holder in as many years to exit in an opening match.

The American eighth seed, who has been troubled by a low-grade illness for a month, was ambushed by Pablo Cuevas 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Roddick, who played the Davis Cup tie at the start of the month in Chile, then failed to make the quarter-finals at the Masters 1000 event at Indian Wells.

He was treated on court on Saturday for both his illness and a groin problem.

Cuevas, ranked 67th in the world, had never played Roddick before and made the most of his first chance.

In the third round he will face Frenchman Gilles Simon, who beat German Rainer Schuettler 6-4, 6-3.

Federer, whose 16 grand slam titles are the most in history, joined Pete Sampras on seventh in the all-time win list with 762 career victories. Jimmy Connors sets the pace

in that statistic with 1,242.

"It's nice tying Pete, but he could have played for many more years," said Federer. "It's a funny stat, but it shows how long I have been around already, how much I've won, all around the world and all the different surfaces. I've played 10, 12 solid seasons, you know," added Federer, who next faces Argentina's Juan Monaco -- a 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4 winner over Ukrainian Sergiy Stakhovsky.

Germany's Philipp Petzschner upset 10th-seeded Austrian Jurgen Melzer 6-3, 6-4.

French 15th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga reached the third

round as he beat Russian Teymuraz Gabashvili 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, while former top-10 player Mikhail Youzhny crushed Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun 6-1, 6-0.

In women's action, fourth seed Samantha Stosur put out Lucie Safarova 6-0, 7-6 (7-1) while sixth seed Jelena Jankovic defeated Klara Zakopalova 7-5, 6-1.

There was also an opening victory for 16th seed Maria Sharapova, a winner over German Sabine Lisicki 6-2, 6-0.

China's Peng Shuai upset 11th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova, hammering the Russian 6-3, 6-1.

Hawks swoop for playoff berth

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) — The Atlanta Hawks secured an NBA playoff berth, taking charge early with a run of 19 straight points en route to a 98-87 victory over New Jersey.

Al Horford had 23 points and 12 rebounds for Atlanta, including six straight points late in the game as the Hawks thwarted a comeback attempt by the Nets. "Coach kept going to me, and I was able to make plays," Horford said. "I had to step up and make shots. I was able to do that."

Josh Smith added 22 points for the Hawks, who are in the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

They also gained a welcome confidence boost after a lackluster spell that saw them lose four of their prior five and eight of their prior 11 games.

Atlanta lost five-time All-Star guard Joe Johnson with a strained right thumb in the third quarter.

He will miss at least one game as he stayed in Atlanta

Saturday night as his teammates departed for a game yesterday in Cleveland.

"It's just sore," Johnson said. "I can't really do much with it as far as catch the basketball."

"We've got to look at the bigger picture. We've got to be as healthy as possible going into the playoffs."

Johnson had 12 points before he was hurt in a collision with Anthony Morrow as both reached for a loose ball.

Morrow had 25 points for the Nets, who have lost six of their last seven.

Although New Jersey outscored Atlanta 56-41 in the second half, they couldn't overcome the deficit.

"It was very tough," Morrow said. "Defensively, we made some mistakes and they capitalized on them. That's what a good team does. You can't have that kind of deficit."

The Hawks led 74-44 before Morrow led the Nets on a fourth-quarter charge.



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Contador wins centennial Tour of Catalonia



Spain: Saxo Bank's cyclist and Spain's three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador adjusts his jersey on the podium after winning the Tour of Catalonia cycling race at Barcelona. Contador won the Tour of Catalonia after the seventh and final stage.

AFP photo

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F1 Vettel supreme in Australian triumph

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) – World champion Sebastian Vettel led throughout in his Red Bull to win the season-opening Australian Grand Prix in dominating style in Melbourne yesterday.

Vettel, who at 23 became the youngest world champion last year, was too quick for his rivals around the Albert Park street circuit, beating McLaren's 2008 world champion Lewis Hamilton by more than 22 seconds with Russian Vitaly Petrov third in a Lotus Renault.

It was Vettel's 11th win in his 63rd GP and continues from where he left off when he won the final race of last

season in Abu Dhabi.

"All in all it was a very good race, there were a lot of things to learn today and we move forward from here," Vettel said.

Vettel's Red Bull was by far the quickest car in Melbourne this weekend and recorded the fastest-ever lap around Albert Park of 1:23.529 to take pole position in Saturday's qualifying.

Ferrari's Fernando Alonso missed out on the podium in fourth place, while Vettel's Australian team-mate Mark Webber finished fifth for the third time in his home GP.

"I think we can be very proud of ourselves, the guys



did a great job coming into this weekend and a week or two ago we were not expecting to be anywhere near the top five here," Hamilton said.

Vettel safely sped away off the pole and headed off Hamilton and Webber to the notorious first right-hander, which claimed seven-time

world champion Michael Schumacher, who was forced to pit before continuing.

Jenson Button was enmeshed in a ferocious dice to get past Ferrari's Felipe Massa, which enthralled race-watchers for laps with the McLaren driver unable to slip past the dogged Brazilian.

Alonso made his first stop on the 13th lap, while Vettel made his first change on the 15th lap, taking just 22 seconds to get back on to the track. Vettel cruised to the chequered flag underlining Red Bull's dominance in the early stages of the new Formula One season.

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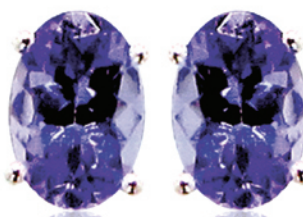


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